Package for export of Tea

1763. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a special package for the export of Indian Tea to foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details of the markets so identified; and

(c) the extent to which the export of tea is likely to be pushed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No special package for the export of Indian Tea to foreign markets has been prepared. However, Tea Board has been taking up promotional activities in foreign markets.

(c) As per present indications, the export of tea from India during 2004-05 is likely to reach a level of 175 million kgs.

Scheme for investment by NRIs

1764. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAAPTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the Non-Resident Indians to make capital investment;

(b) if so, the amount of investment made in this scheme; and

(c) the number of Non-Resident Indians who have made investment in the scheme State-wise and country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Non-Resident Indians(NRIs) can make capital investment under Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) scheme where the investment is governed by the FDI Policy. Government have put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein FDI up to 100% is permitted in most sectors/activities on the automatic route. In addition, the policy allows additional opportunities for NRIs which include investment up to 100% in the real estate and housing sector, and domestic airlines. Apart from investment under the FDI scheme, NRIs can also invest under the

Portfolio Investment Scheme and in shares and convertible debentures of Indian companies on non-repatriation basis.

(b) Total inflows from NRIs (under the FDI and other schemes) during the period 1991 till September, 2004 is Rs. 9773.91 crore.

(c) FDI, including investment by NRIs, is determined by a number of factors, both internal and external. Global economic environment and domestic economic situation play a major role. In a liberalised economy locational decisions are taken by investors based on their commercial judgement. Separate statistics on State-wise and country-wise investment by NRIs are not maintained.

Role of DGFT

1765. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study group, under a former Commerce Secretary, was constituted to consider and to recommend on the role and restructuring of the Director General of Foreign Trade in the context of prevalent liberalised economic policy;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A Study Group was set up under Sh. P.P. Prabhu, former Commerce Secretary, to advise the Government on the future role and functions of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and its possible restructuring in the liberalised economic scenario and emerging world trading environment. Some of the key recommendations of the Prabhu Committee, are—

1. Streamlining of the existing activities of Directorate General of Foreign Trade including a simplified procedure for issue of Importer Exporter Code number (IEC).
2. Rationalisation of Duty Neutralisation Schemes once the Customs/ Excise duties come down to ASEAN levels and customs computerisation is completed.